National Seminar on Sustainable Agricultural Development

3504. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Seminar on Sustainable Agricultural Development was held at Pondicherry on September 12/13, 1991; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations made at the Seminar and the follow-up action taken/proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A National Seminar on Sustainable Agricultural Development was organised by the Voluntary Health Association of India on 12-13 September, 1991 at Pondicherry. The Seminar recomeneded that in view of the health hazards involved in use of agro-chemicals, efforts may be set in motion for critical evaluation of the traditional methods of agriculture and introduction of newer technologies and methods such as Integrated Pest Management, use of plant-based products, biological control to gradually replace the highly hazardous agrichemicals.

Oil Tankage Facility in Orissa

3505. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Paradip Port Trust have provided necessary infrastructure and land to the Indian Oil Corporation and HPCL for tankage of oil facility in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) (a) and (b): While HPC have already been provided land by Paradip Port Trust for the project, the formal handing over of land to Indian Oil Corporation is yet to take place. No other infrastructure has been provided.

Oil Refineries

3506. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refineries sanctioned recently;

(b) the details of the demand likely to be met by these refineries; and

(c) the time by which these refineries are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) (a) to (c): Government have approved setting up of a 0.5 Million tonnes per annum crude distillation unit at Narimanam, Tamilnadu and a 3 Million tonnes per annum Oil Refinery at Mangalore, Karnataka. These projects are scheduled to be completed during 1993-94 and 1995-96 respectively.

Fisheries University in Kerala

3507. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Fisheries University in Kerala during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bilateral Relationship with United Kingdom

3508. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to strengthen further the bilateral relationship with the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme of action drawn up by both the countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Regular and frequent exchange of high-level visits between the two countries have resulted in better mutual understanding which in turn has had a beneficial impact on Indo-UK cooperation in various fields.

Prime Minister had a meeting with UK Prime Minister John Major in Harare in Oct' 91; External Affairs Minister met his UK counterpart in New York in September, 1991; and the Minister of State visited London in November, 1991. The British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd and Prince Charles are scheduled to visit India in the third week of January, 1992 and February, 1992 respectively.

The new liberal economic policies of the Government of India have been widely publicised in UK and the British industry has been invited to invest more in India.

Agricultural Production in Eastern States

3509. SHRI GOPINATH ;GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes introduced by the Government to increase agricultural production in the Eastern States particularly in Orissa; and

(b) the Central assistance given to Orissa under these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b). A statement showing the Central/ Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in the Eastern States particularly in Orissa which directly help to increase the production of agricultural crops and the Central assistance provided to Orissa State under these schemes during the last three years is enclosed.